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Hundreds of Vanguard Soldiers return home



Photo by Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr.

Madison, 8, stands at attention as her brother Christopher, 6, salutes as they watch Vanguard Soldiers and their father Staff Sgt. Aaron Richards, an MP with the 4-3 BSTB, 4th IBCT, begin their march across Cottrell Field, after a year-long deployment to Iraq,

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr. 3rd ID Public Affairs

More than 400 Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team 3rd Infantry Division serving in Iraq were welcomed home at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field in two separate ceremonies, June 7, following their year-long advise-and-assist mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The Vanguard Soldiers arrived on separate flights, hours apart, but were greeted warmly by hundreds of flag-waving Vanguard Family Members, fellow Soldiers and friends, as well as by music from the 3rd Infantry Division Band.

Throughout the two ceremonies, the redeploying Vanguard Soldiers were greeted by 3rd ID Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams and Deputy Commanding General -Support, Colonel Christopher P. Hughes, who congratulated them on their success and welcomed them back home.

"I had the great fortune to travel to Iraq two weeks ago and see the exact efforts of this brigade combat team in action. The results of the progress we've made in Iraq is phenomenal and it's all been done by a bunch of unsung heroes, like the ones that are standing right here, 227 Dog Face Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Abrams. "You [should] be proud of what you have accomplished."

See VANGUARD—Page 2A



Photo by Renee Reese

Fort Stewart Garrison Commander Colonel Kevin Milton and Command Sergeant Major James Ervin join Fire Chief Donald Hollis in cutting the cake during the 15th Street Fire House ribbon cutting ceremony June 2.

Fort Stewart opens new fire house

Renee Reese Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Fort Stewart officially opened its newest fire station during a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony, June 2. The 15th Street Fire House now serves as headquarters for the fire and emergency services division in addition to serving

as the training and fire prevention office. "We have been looking forward to this day a long time," said Julie Hermann, Director of Emergency Services. "I am so proud that we get to occupy this building with the quality staff we have."

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander, Col. Kevin Milton, addressed community members and fire fighters in front of the sparkling new facility. Colonel Milton spoke about the courageous efforts of our firefighters during the Long county fires that have plagued our area in recent weeks.

"These wonderful firefighters you see here today ... not only protect the installation but are great community partners for local fire departments off the installation," Col. Milton said.

See FACILITY———

Vanguard heroes awarded for Valor



Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas

Colonel Lou Lartigue, 4th AAB, 3rd ID, awards Sgt. Robert Sacco, with Co B., 3/15 Inf. Regt., 4th AAB, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during a ceremony at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, May 27.

Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas 4th AAB, 3rd ID

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq – "This formation is full of heroes," said Col. Lou Lartigue, commander of the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division as he spoke his Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, May 27.

Two such heroes - both infantrymen with Company B, were recognized for their efforts to defeat an enemy attack, May 10, and were each awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor in front of their peers.

"I was pulling air guard and I noticed a man standing on the edge of the road with his hand in a bag," said Sgt. Robert Sacco, a Haverhill, Mass., native who was on patrol from Camp Taqaddum to Camp Ramadi with other members of the Habbaniyah Police Team. "Most people normally carry a bag from the handle, but he actually had his hand completely submerged into the bag. I knew something wasn't right," he

Sergeant Sacco watched as the man removed an RKG-3 from the bag and threw the grenade at the fourth vehicle. Sacco fired back.

"I missed," he laughed, "The guys still give me a hard time about that."

The grenade detonated on the fourth vehicle and the attacker turned and ran.

"As the dust settled, we engaged again," he said.

See VALOR ——Page 12A

Resiliency training graduates gain new perspective

Renee Reese

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Thirty one Department of the Army Civilians successfully completed the Commanding General's Resiliency Training and were presented certificates of completion, June 2 at Fort Stewart's Marne Garden. Resiliency training is a part of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness that focuses on five dimensions of strength and is offered to Soldiers, Family Members and Civilians.

According to Major General Robert B. Abrams, 3rd Infantry Division commander, the training is a life changing event.

'Instead of looking at the glass half empty, you will now look at things as half full," Maj. Gen. Abrams said.

Graduates completed four modules and 13 units of instruction in six resiliency competencies: self awareness, self regulation, optimism, mental agility, strength of character and connection. The ceremony marked the first-ever Army Civilian class to graduate from Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield.

Major General Abrams warmly addressed the graduates and spoke of how each will positively impact their immediate work environment and their Families by completing the training. According to Maj. Gen. Abrams graduates have an increased level of optimism and a new approach on life, work and Family.

See RESILIENCY__Page 2A

Know Your Bugle Calls

First Call

Monday – Friday 6:25 a.m.

(render honors) Daily 6:30 a.m.

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.

Recall

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.

Mess Call

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. (breakfast); Noon (lunch); 5:30 p.m. (dinner)

Assembly

Monday-Friday 8:55 a.m.

Retreat/To the Color

(attention) Daily 5 p.m. To The Color

(Render honors) Daily 5 p.m.

Call To Quarters

Monday-Friday 10 p.m.

Tattoo

Daily 10:45 p.m.

Taps

Daily 11 p.m.

Chapel Call

Sunday 10 a.m.



When the Gold Star is not a rank Page 10A

Stewart schools face new initiatives next season Page 1B

Glory Guns has best platoon in Raider Stakes Page 12A



Barracks Life



Spc. Jared Eastman 1HBCT Public Affairs

I haven't seen my roommates in three days. It's not that I don't like them, but both the proverbial and literal door remains closed these days. All too often, we find ourselves holing up in our own little worlds with little regard for those

around us. Although some of us can't call our roommates friends, it's important to remember to talk with them occasionally. A lack of conversation can lead to much worse things. We all know what its like to be in a spat with those that share our abode, it's a tense atmosphere. The room is always quiet and although you can hear the sounds of your roommate moving around or doing something, you don't start conversa-

Soon you start playing little mind games with one

Roommate problems? Listen up

another: turning the volume up just a tad too loud, stealing that last bowl of cereal, inviting your most loud and obnoxious friend over to play video games until three in the morning. If left unchecked, it can turn into all out war until something gives.

It's amazing what even a hasty conversation with your roommate can do, and you might find yourself beginning to tolerate the roommate situation. There are risks you take when you do such a thing. A simple "how was your day?" may turn into an hour long conversation about why cavalry scouts are 1,883,182,818.135 times better than everyone else, but it helps build a relationship with your roommate.

When you first get a new roommate or you're trying to live with your current one, try setting some 'ground rules'. Army Soldiers have a tendency to balk when hearing 'parent' talk, so it's best to use another word for it. Hold a conversation with your roommate where you both talk about pet peeves and the like. Compromise is required from both parties to make it work. Objects in motion tend to stay in motion unless acted upon by an unbalanced force. If you don't tell your roommates what's bothering you, they'll keep doing those

Also, keep in mind that if something your roommate does irks you, chances are you do something that annoys them. If you leave your phone ringer at 100 decibels and don't want to bother rolling over in bed to answer it, you should probably change your settings out of common courtesy.

Compromise is the watchword of a good roommate. Your two basic responsibilities should always be uppermost in your mind - keeping the place clean and being respectful of those who live with you. You should strive to remain hygienically and diplomatically proficient.

Every Soldier should have the right to a peaceful room; it's one of the few places we can decompress from the day's events. Always try to be courteous with your roommate; chances are he or she will be courteous in return.



America's Army 'The strength of the nation' for 236 years

Erin O. Stattel Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. - War fighting and humanitarian assistance are just a few of the roles some one million members of the U.S. Army play today, and has been for more than two hundred years.

The Army celebrates its 236th birthday this year, and the milestone calls for a full lineup of events to commemorate the many roles the Army fulfills, the most important being the strength of the nation.

"From the first battles at Lexington and Concord to the streets of Mosul and Kandahar, Soldiers have always defended freedom and epitomized what is best about America," said the 37th Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Martin Dempsey.

Dempsey said that as the Army moves forward it will continue to be the strength of the nation.

"We will remain the nation's decisive force, the clearest symbol of America's commitment to freedom and the country's preeminent leadership experience," he said. "We will remain America's Army, the strength of the nation."

Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler reminded everyone that while the Army celebrates, there are Soldiers still engaged in theater.

"As we celebrate our Army's birthday, remember that we still have more than 120,000 Soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Chandler. "Happy birthday to those who make the Army what it is today, the premier fighting force in the free world. You are America's Army and you are Army strong."

New this year is the Army Birthday Baseball Bash, a nationwide celebration of game-day events that will give local baseball teams and their fans an opportunity to celebrate the Army's birthday, as well as recognize the service and sacrifice made by Soldiers and their families. Teams such as the Chicago White Sox, the Chicago Cubs, the Seattle Mariners and the Cleveland Indians are slated to feature events highlighting the Army's 236th birthday.

In the nation's capital, the celebration kicks off with a formal black-tie ball June 11 and will highlight the Army's most important role, the strength of the nation. The ball will feature entertainment from the Army Field Band and country music recording artist Phil Vassar. The events continue with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

What would a birthday be without birthday cake? The U.S. Army will have several cakes capping off the celebration, one presented at the Army Birthday Ball, a cake cutting ceremony in the Pentagon and another one on Capitol Hill. In fact, the cake cutting ceremonies will continue all around the world from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan to West Point throughout the

Back in the Capital, the celebration will also feature precision and tradition with a Twilight Tattoo and performances from the 3rd Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard, at Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall's Whipple Field June 15. Finally, in true Army spirit, Soldiers can participate in the Army Birthday Run June 17. The route will make its way through Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall.

In the meantime, Army garrisons worldwide will be celebrating 236 years of strong service to the nation. At U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Germany, the garrison commander and command sergeant major will read, "Happy Birthday U.S. Army," to school children, and Fort Rucker is scheduled to host a series of concerts locally in Alabama to highlight the Army Birthday.

Congress created the Army June 14, 1775 and \$2 million was allocated to support forces positioned around New York and Boston. Congress also voted to bring forth a uniform set of rules and regulations to the newly formed Army, and authorized the forma-

edgling colonies and secure our independence from oppression. Since that time - from Bunke Hill to Baghdad and from Cold Harbor to Kandahar - American Soldiers have been the sat on's freedom and a shield from oppression for our friends and allies and security, and to provide for the defense of the United States. Today we continue to do this a some and abroad by fielding the most disciplined, competent and fit force in the world and sent and the threats it may pose, we know that America's Army will confront each with the same unsurpassed courage, selflessness and dedication that has characterized our history for 236 Families and Veterans who have socrificed and persevered three de Chudle

tion of 10 companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, who would later become known as the 1st Continental

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield acknowledges the Army birthday Tuesday with a 9 a.m. ceremony in Marne Garden. The day will also be recognized by the youth at the Bryan Village Youth Center and the Hunter Scool Age Youth Services from 5-7 p.m. respectively. Marne Lane gets in on the celebration with discounted bowling.

VANGUARD -

"On behalf of a grateful nation and a whole bunch of Vanguard Families, welcome home."

As Family Members gathered on Cottrell Field with their handmade signs and banners to welcome their Soldier home, emotions of relief and excitement ran high.

"I am so excited he is finally coming home," said Jennifer Weitekamp, wife of Spc. Greg Weitekamp, assigned to Company E, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th IBCT. "I am never letting go of him again."

For one particular Family Member, separation due to deployments has become a positive way

"I am relieved and very happy to have him coming back home, I've missed him," said Natalie Richards, wife of Staff Sgt. Aaron Richards, an MP with the 4/3 Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT. "Separation has kept the spark alive; you could say the Army has saved our marriage."

from Page 1A Jamie Neuenschwander, wife of Sgt. Christopher Neuenschwander, assigned to Company E, 3rd

Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT, said deployments are not unfamiliar to their Family and they plan on making up lost time together travelling and visiting Family who were unable to attend the welcome home ceremony.

"This is our fourth deployment as a Family. We plan on travelling half the country and seeing Family we haven't seen in nine years. "Jamie said, "Unfortunately, some of our Family were on their way to be here tonight and are broken down in South Carolina."

As the final notes of the "Dog Face Soldier" song still echoed across the field, eager Family Members rushed the field to greet and embrace their returning Soldier, ending the year-long sep-

The remaining 4th IBCT Soldiers are scheduled to return throughout the month of June.

Photo by Sgt. Robert Schaffner, 3rd ID Public

Spc. Greg Weitekamp, assigned to Company E, 703rd BSTB, 4th IBCT, is greeted by his daughter Jaycee, 1, after his unit returned from a year-long deployment to Iraq, as she walks for the very first time as his wife, Jennifer, assists.

FACILITY_

-from Page 1A

Firefighters received certificates of appreciation during the ceremony for their efforts with the Long county fire.

The 19,000 square foot fire house will help meet the demands of our growing community.

"This facility shows that we have support from the garrison commander. They understand the need for us being here," Fire Chief of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Donald Hollis said. "It's all about providing a service to Soldiers and their Families."

Stewart-Hunter firefighters are highly skilled and trained to respond to emergencies both on and off the installation.

"It does not matter what this community needs from us, they can always call the fire department," Chief Hollis said. "My guys work holidays, weekends... we are here 24/7. We provide any and everything they need. Even if they need us to rescue a cat, all they need to do is call 911 and we will be more than happy to help."

RESILIENCY-

"The training showed how we can help our customers in a whole new way," said LaTonya Brown Soldier Family Assistance Center outreach coordinator. "We always had a high level of optimism in everything we did in class."

Resiliency training symbolizes the Army's commitment to building strong minds and bod-

"The skills that you get in the training, you get right away... if you like

the training, you go home

and start using the skills

right away," Becky Sellars,

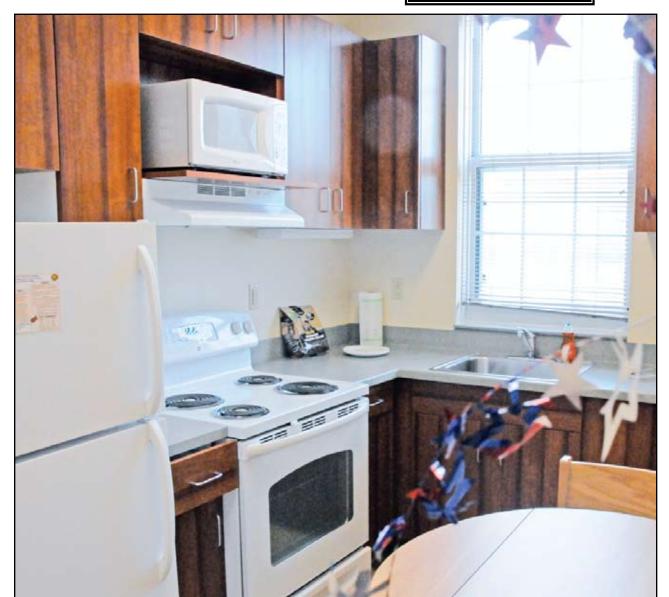
plans and operations Specialist and Master Resiliency Trainer said. "The skills you learn are useful and valuable. When we [Civilians] take care of ourselves, we take better care of our customers."

from Page 1A

"The resiliency training is priceless...if everyone took the training we would all be on the same page and that means giving our very best to our customers," Brown said.

The next resiliency training is scheduled to begin June 13. For more information, contact 912-767-5058.

BEHIND THE LENS



Photos by Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr.

June 1.

The stocked and decorated kitchen, in one of the many new 4th IBCT barracks, sets ready for its new single Soldier occupants upon their return their year-long advise-and-assist mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, June 1.



Savannah, 3, daughter of deployed Vanguard Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Letterlie, an MP assigned to 4th AAB, 3rd ID, stocks a refrigerator in one of the new barracks room kitchen in preparation for the redeploying Single Soldiers when they return home from their deployment in Iraq,

Single Vanguard Soldiers welcomed into new barracks

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr. 3rd ID Public Affairs

Family and friends of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are working hard to ensure that the single Vanguard Soldiers returning home from their year-long deployment don't feel for-

As the Vanguard Brigade returns home from their Advise and Assist mission in Iraq, the single Soldiers are coming back to rooms in the brand-new barracks in the recently-completed 4th IBCT complex area, meant to make them feel at home.

Thanks to the hard work of the community and dedicated volunteers, donations have poured in from businesses from as far away as Atlanta, and from Family Members and friends around the country. Hundreds of new pillows, mattress pads, comforters, bed sheets, towels, food, soda, snacks, shaving gear and more were donated and are in every room to greet the single Soldiers as they enter their new barracks.

"Friends of the 4/3 Booster Club reached out to the community and Family Members to gather donations," said Jamie Fletcher, president of the 4/3 BSTB Booster Club, who personally drove 500 miles round trip to Atlanta to meet with JK Linens, who then donated 156 sets of 1200 thread count bed sheets. "All the support has been great."

The support of the soon-redeploying single Soldiers goes deeper than decorating a few

If you're driving on or around post, you often see signs and banners from Family Members welcoming home their Soldier from a long deployment, but what about the single Soldier? Diamond Elementary School students are making sure those Soldiers are also welcomed home with open arms.

"Our fourth through sixth grade students wrote letters and made banners for the returning single Soldiers," said Vivian Harkrader, a sixth grade teacher at Diamond Elementary School and a spouse of a deployed Soldier. "We want to help make the single Soldiers feel at home for when they return home from their deployment."

The extra goodies placed in the rooms are not the only things done to make the rooms feel more like home: the rooms themselves, which weren't built when the brigade deployed, were designed to make the Soldiers more comfort-

"The Soldiers will have a private bedroom and share a full kitchen, equipped with a stove and oven, full-size refrigerator and microwave." said Troy Funk, a resident engineer with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Savannah District. "The Soldiers will also share a full-size stackable washer and dryer, which are in every room.

Everything has been done in the barracks keeping the single Soldier in mind to improve the quality of life for the Soldier." For the Vanguard Family Members, the

instinct to welcome home the single Soldiers

was something that came naturally. "Many of the single Soldiers returning do not have Family in the area," said Rhonda Woody, whose husband, Maj. Chris Woody, a stability transition team officer assigned to 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, is still

deployed in Iraq. "This is just a small thing that

we can do to welcome our Soldiers back

home."



Rhonda Woody and daughter, Rachael, 13, Family Members of deployed Maj. Chris Woody, assigned to 4th AAB, 3rd ID hang decorations on a barracks room door, June 1. The Woody's and other Vanguard Family Members spent several days preparing the barracks for the single Soldiers, who will redeploy throughout the month of June.





Gift bags filled with snacks and toiletries line the hallway of the new 4th IBCT barracks, June 1. The bags are being distributed to more than 1200 single Soldiers who will be returning from Iraq throughout the month of June.



Vanguard Family Members prepare to enter the new 4th IBCT barracks with donated bedding, snacks and toiletries so the Soldiers' could feel comfortable during their first night back from their deployment in Iraq,

Marne Faces Marne Places

SOS answers calls of distress

Kaytrina Curtis Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The late night penetrating knock on the door, the mid-day unexpected piercing chime of the doorbell is what some have experienced, yet Carol Lumpkin's life changing moment came with an early morning phone call. A phone call that would change her and the life of their two children forever. The phone call informed Carol that her husband had been in an accident and that he was in critical condition. The rear detachment commander told her to prepare for the worst because Sgt. Johnny Lumpkin, formerly of 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, was in critical condition and she needed to get to Landstuhl, Germany as quickly as pos-

But before she could make the full trip to Germany, she received the terrible news that he died as a result of his inju-

"Oh my God," Carol said after getting the news, "what am I going to do now."

"He was loud, proud and country," Carol said with a smile about her Columbus, Georgia born husband. "Everybody knows him by that, and he always had stories to tell. He was some-

one who always helped other people on active duty. before himself.'

the pain is still there, Carol, a per-

son others describe as strong, pushes forward. She said one of her main support systems comes from the Soldiers in Johnny's unit and her coworkers. Carol oftentimes could see the look of pity coming from them, yet she would tell his 'battle buddies' she did not want anyone to feel sorry for her.

"If you want to talk about Lumpkin talk about him," Carol would say to the Soldiers. "If you want to make fun of him, make fun of him because that is what would bring a smile to my face, because that is what he liked."

As a Gold Star Family Member, many issues may arise soon after the death of a Soldier and the employees at Survivor Outreach Services are there to lend a helping hand. The SOS, which had its inception in late 2008 early 2009 on bases worldwide, is the military's way of keeping Families connected once a service member has died while

"Things vary so much because when Almost a year has passed and though dealing with grief, everyone is at different stages," SOS Coordinator,

Cheryl Sowell said. "We listen, we care... the military has not for-

gotten you. It's a thousand percent better than what it used to be."

Although SOS employees are not counselors, Meghan Paige, SOS financial counselor, said she finds her job rewarding and that they love to help others by listening to them.

Sowell said that in the past, after experiencing the initial trauma, the second wave hits with the loss of the military Family. Sowell ,who has been around the Army 'a long time,' said she has seen a change in the way the Army takes care of Families.

Prior to Sept. 30, 1999, Families were only allowed to stay on base for only six months after the death of an activeduty Soldier. Now surviving Family Members are allowed to stay on base for a year or if the Family chooses to move off base, they are entitled to a

year of Basic Housing Allowance.

"The new ideology is to keep them connected, and I think now we have some of the best commanders that I've seen," Sowell said. "They (commanders) spend time with us, talking with us to see what we can do for that Family and make their situation better."

Carol lamented that the thought of moving off post right away made her fearful of losing all of her memories she and Johnny shared.

"Even though all of the memories are in my heart and in my mind, I was just afraid," she said. "I go back and look at my e-mails, his Facebook account... I just sit and look at it and look up to the Lord and that's when I get my peace."

Paige also expressed the need to help Families get a handle on issues where death gratuity money is concerned.

"We try and help that money be spread out for the rest of their lives and work within a budget," Paige said.

Carol said once she went to SOS they were a great help to her; however, she admonishes spouses to be financially stable before a tragedy may hit.

"Whenever they need us, whether its 10 or 15 years down the road, they can always have us to come to," Paige said. "We offer long-term support."

Raider Soldier uses skills in language during visit

Spc. Michael Adams 3rd ID Public Affairs

Before Yunjue Wu decided to be a human resources specialist with 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, she moved to California, from China, when she was a 14-year old teenager. While in California, she used her language skills in Mandarin Chinese to work as an interpreter between patients and their health care providers.

In 2010, she decided she wanted a challenge in her life and decided to enlist in the Army.

Major General Robert Abrams, commander of the Third Infantry Division. asked her to serve as a translator for a delegation of Chinese Army officers as they visited Fort Stewart on May 19, as part of a week-long tour of military bases all over America.

Private First Class Wu accepted the responsibility and was proud to represent the United States.

"Why wouldn't I do something to help the delegation visit?" she said. "I feel proud of myself that I can use my skills

to help the Chinese community and the Army."

Private First Class Wu worked extensively to translate manuscripts from the unit tactical operation center for the Chinese delegation as part of the exercise. Her work helped to explain how the tactical operation center operated in a way the Chinese visitors could understand and without violating the rules of operational security.

Major Rodney Morgan served as lead planner and action officer for the delegation visit.

He praised Pfc. Wu for her service during the visit.

"The addition of Pfc. Wu added aspects of cultural awareness and professionalism that pushed the TOC visit from successful to extraordinary," he said, adding that the delegation was very surprised and impressed that someone in the United States Army's ranks spoke

For her hard work, Maj. Gen. Abrams awarded her the Army Commendation Medal in a small ceremony, May 21, at Fort Stewart.



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams

Private First Class Yunjue Wu, a human resources specialist with 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, poses with the Army Commendation Medal she received for her role as an interpreter during a visit of delegates from the Chinese military, May 21, at Fort Stewart.

Marne Voices Speak Out

Why is it important to celebrate the Army Birthday?

"I think it's important to celebrate the Army's birthday because it's important to remember the Soldiers before you. It's right in keeping with Army customs and courtesies.."





"A lot of our forefathers lost their lives for our freedom, and it's important to honor our Army's birthday to celebrate that freedom."

LeAndre Anderson Hunter Operations Army Civilian

The.

"I think it's important to cele brate the Army's birthday because the Army is rich in tradition and it's a day of remembrance.'

Spc. John Foster



This is an organization that defends our country no matter the cost, and we joined this Army. It's right to celebrate the birthday of something we believe so strongly in."

Sgt. Richard Rivers E Co. 1/3 Avn.

3rd ID PAO — Lt. Col. Jeff Allen



Spc. John Steigenberger





3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER, SENIOR COMMANDER FS/HAAF MAJ. GEN. ROBERT B. ABRAMS USAG FS/HAAF COMMANDER COL. KEVIN W. MILTON HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD COMMANDER LT. COL. JOSE L. AGUILAR

"It's important to me to celebrate the Army's birthday because this is the greatest Army in the world, and I'm a part of it."

Spc. Lewis Hazen E Co., 4/3 Avn.

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Educators gain insight during tour



Photo by Autry McGary, Hunter Army Airfield School Liaison Officer

Effingham County educators were given a tour of the USCG Air Station Savannah hangar during a tour of Hunter Army Airfield, June 3.

Jennifer Hartwig

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs

In attempt to better understand their military children, Effingham County educators took a tour of Hunter Army Airfield, and walked away filled with enthusiasm.

"It really showed us what Army life and installation life is like," said Effingham County superintendant, Randy Shearouse. "I know we're all going back to tell people what we saw ... we're taking back a lot of excitement."

Twenty-four Effingham County principals and central office staff, including Shearouse and the assistant superintendant, spent the day at Hunter, June 3.

With a sizeable percentage of military Families stationed at Hunter residing in Effingham County, Shearouse thought his staff would gain understanding of those children by visiting the installation.

They began the day with a briefing on the installation and its units, then hopped on their bus and saw Hunter for themselves with a windshield tour of the installation; they got a taste of flying in a Blackhawk in flight simulators, ate lunch at the 3rd Combat

Aviation Brigade dining facility, tried on Army combat gear and took a tour of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah hangar.

Effingham County has 13 public schools – eight elementary, three middle and two high schools. All of the principals, except one elementary principal who was unable to attend, were present for the Hunter experience, and their superintendant feels that the objective of the visit was reached.

"[The visit] gave us a good idea of what our military goes through," Shearouse said. "It opened our eyes so that we're compassionate and understanding of their children."

Though this was the first visit to Hunter for most of the Effingham County education central office staff, principals and teachers, Shearouse said the school counselors are regularly involved in events and trainings at Hunter.

At the end of the day, the group was given a farewell by one very appreciative Hunter leader.

"I can't think of anything better than dedicating your lives to our children," said Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar. "We appreciate what you do in taking care of our kids."

Binge drinking, intoxication, what does it all mean?

Deedra Hinton

Prevention and Education Program Supervisor

Lucinda Johnson-Wallace

Prevention Coordinator

To get drunk is defined as an overdose of alcohol, or intoxication. It is not defined as feeling good as most people think.

The amount of alcohol it takes to get highly intoxicated differs from person to person depending on various factors such as weight, age, and amount of food eaten prior to alcohol drinking among others.

However, consumption of four or more alcohol drinks by a woman five or more drinks by a man (i.e. binge drinking) generally leads to drunkenness.

Nevertheless, it depends on the individuals' tolerance level. Getting drunk or intoxicated is the result of consuming excessive amounts of alcohol.

Alcohol is an equal opportunity drink. It does not care what rank, sex, religion, gender, or education you have, 'drunk is drunk'.

Binge drinking normally results in acute intoxication. Alcohol intoxication can be unfavorable to health for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to impaired brain function resulting in poor judgment, reduced reaction time, loss of balance and motor skills, and/or slurred speech. It can also lead to dilation of blood vessels causing a feeling of warmth but resulting in rapid loss of body heat, an increase of cancer or other diseases, damage to a developing fetus if consumed by pregnant women.

Coma or death can occur if alcohol is consumed rapidly and in large amounts.

Different urban names for being drunk are: wasted, hammered, crunk, smashed, stoned, trashed plastered, hungover, inebriated, tipsy, crazy, sloshed, buzzed, tanked, faded, blitzed, and wrecked.

COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS:

MYTH: When I am cold, I can drink alcohol to warm up.

FACT: Actually, when alcohol enters the blood, it causes more blood to flow to the surface of the skin. While initially giving a feeling of warmth, the increased blood flow to the surface allows body heat to escape and thus the body temperature drops. Drinking alcohol in cold weather to get warm actually makes you colder

MYTH: Beer is less intoxicating than other types of alcoholic beverage.

FACT: One 12-ounce can of beer, one 4-ounce glass of wine, a shot of whisky or one normal mixed drink all have the same amount of alcohol.

MYTH: Switching between beer, wine, and liquor will make you drunker.

FACT: Mixing types of drinks may make you sicker by upsetting your stomach, but not more intoxicated. Alcohol is alcohol.

MYTH: Cold showers, fresh air or a cup of coffee will help sober a person.

FACT: Only time will remove alcohol from your system. It takes the body approximately one hour to eliminate the alcohol in one drink. An old saying goes, "give a drunk a cup of coffee and all you have is a wideawake drunk.

MYTH: Eating a big meal before you drink will keep you sober.

FACT: Drinking on a full stomach will only delay the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream, not prevent it. Eating before you drink is not a defense against getting drunk.

MYTH: Everyone reacts to alcohol in the same way.

FACT: Many factors affect a person's reaction to alcohol such as, body weight, metabolism, gender and body chemistry are just a few of them.

Ask The Judge: Immigration help for relatives

Captain, Nick Hurd

Legal Assistance Attorney

• Can I help my relatives immigrate to the United States?

As a citizen of the United States, you may help a relative become a lawful permanent resident of the United States by obtaining what is often referred to as a "green card." In order to help your relative, you need to sponsor your relative and be able to prove that you have enough income or assets to support your relative(s) when they come to the United States.

Q: How do I start the process?

A You begin the process by filing the Petition for Alien Relative, Form I-130, available at www.uscis.gov. This form establishes the family relationship that exists between you and your relative. You must file a separate petition for each one of your relatives, including your own children. Filing a Form I-130 and proving a qualifying relationship gives your relative a place in line with others waiting to immigrate from the same country or region based on the same type of relationship. When you relative reaches the front of the line, he or she may be eligible to immigrate after passing the required background checks and meeting requirements for admission.

Q: Which relatives may I petition for?

A• A U.S. citizen who is at least 21 years or older may petition for the following relatives: husband or wife; certain children depending on their age and marital status; parents; and brothers or sisters.

Q: Does filing a relative petition commit me to

anything?

A• Yes. Under the law, each person who immigrates based on a relative's petition must have a financial sponsor. If you choose to sponsor your relative's immigration by filing a relative petition, when the time comes for your relative to immigrate, you must agree to be his or her financial sponsor by filing Form I-864, Affidavit of Support. If you do not meet the financial qualifications, other individuals will then need to make this commitment.

How long will it take before my relative can immigrate?

A• The law gives special consideration to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, which includes a U.S. citizen's spouse, unmarried children under 21 years of age, and parents. For these immediate relatives there is no waiting list to immigrate. The U.S. Department of State will invite them to apply for an immigrant visa as soon as the I-130 petition is approved.

For other relatives, the combination of high demand and the limits set by law on how many people can immigrate each year means you relative may have to wait several years "in line" while petitions that were filed before theirs are processed. When you relative reaches the "front of the line," the U.S. Department of State contacts your relative and invites him or her to apply for an immigrant visa. Current wait times for visa categories are available under "Visa Bulletins" on the State Department's web site at *www.travel.state.gov/visa.*

Can my relatives wait in the United States until becoming permanent residents?

A. No. If your relative is outside the United States, filing an I-130 does not allow your relative to live or

work in the United States. An I-130 petition only establishes your relationship with your relative. You relative should wait outside the United States to immigrate legally. If your husband or wife, unmarried child under 21 years, or parent is already in the United States after having entered legally, they can apply to adjust their status to permanent resident at the same time you file their I-130 petition.

Q: Where can I get more information about helping my relatives?

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services web site, *www.uscis.gov* is the best place to start any immigration issue. The web site contains information papers, forms, and instructions dealing with any immigration issue. There is special section of the USCIS web site and military help-line exclusively for Soldiers and Family Members. The number for the military help-line is 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645).

Can I discuss my immigration issue with the Legal Assistance Office?

A Yes. Before you file anything you can make an appointment with the Legal Assistance Office. We can look over the documents and forms, and make sure everything is correct. Each immigration issue is unique, and sometimes additional forms and steps are needed. The Legal Assistance Office can assist you in this manner as well.

Fort Stewart's Legal Assistance is located in Building 709 (next to Popeye's and Caro Gym), and Hunter Army Airfield's Legal Assistance Office is in Building 1211. You can reach the Fort Stewart office by calling 912-767-8809/8819 or the Hunter Army Airfield office by calling 912-315-5115.

Adjoining Liberty County receives work ready certification

Renee Reese

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Liberty County, a bordering community of Fort Stewart, received its official Work Ready certification from Georgia's governor Nathan Deal, June 7, at the Liberty County Board of Education office. The designation means this military-connected community has the necessary skilled workers needed to meet local business demands and drive economic growth.

"In the job market it really gives you [Family Members, retirees] a leg up and makes your resume stand out that much more potential employers," said Liberty County Chamber of Commerce executive director Leah Poole. "There are even some companies who have moved to not accepting applications if the appli-

cant has not been Work Ready certified."

Liberty County Chamber of Commerce's mission is to support new and existing business, trade and industry within Liberty County, while increasing the quality of life for its citizens.

In order to receive the designation, counties had to improve public high school graduation rates and show a specified percentage of the current workforce as having obtained Work Ready certificates.

According to Poole, Liberty County earned 2,901 Work Ready certificates, which is 115 percent more than the goal. In addition, the public high school graduation rate increased from 69.4 to 77.8 percent.

The technical College System of Georgia administers the Work Ready program. Testing is free and gap training is provided to help those wanting to improve their scores added Poole.

"Workforce development is at the core of everything we do at Savannah Tech," said Savannah Technical College president, Kathy Love. "We're proud that Liberty County has earned this important designation and will be continuing to work with our partners to strengthen the labor pool throughout our area."

Work Ready certification allows greater opportunity for the more than 40,000 retired military personnel, Family Members and military connected dependents who call Liberty County home according to *libertycountyga.com*.

Governor Deal said in a Liberty County Chamber of Commerce press release "... Georgians in these communities are taking charge of their futures and equipping themselves for success."

Our Mission

"Our mission is to provide Soldiers, Civilians and their Families with a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service." *Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, IMCOM Commander*

We are the Army's Home





Understanding CPOL, USAJobs 'who may apply'

Fort Stewart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Here is information that may provide a better understanding of the term 'Who May Apply' when applying for jobs on CPOL and USAJob sites.

Some statements under 'Who May Apply' have additional text that is not displayed on the announcement. These are referred to as expanded definitions. Below are the expanded definitions for these statements. To conserve space, statements that do not have expanded definitions are not listed here.

Amended Announcement: Applicants who previously applied for announcement number need not reapply - Please read this announcement carefully because some changes have been made. If we have received your resume from a previous submission, you do not need to resubmit your resume. Resumes previously submitted will be considered along with other resumes received by the closing date on this announcement.

All U.S. citizens and Nationals with allegiance to the United States - Only a United States citizen (including citizens of Guam, Northern Mariana Islands including Siapan, Rota, Tinian; Puerto Rico; and the Virgin Islands of the United States, including St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John) and nationals from American Samoa and Swains Island may be appointed to this position.

Reinstatement eligibles - Former Federal employees who attained career status on a permanent, competitive Federal appointment. If the person was a career-conditional, reinstatement eligibility generally applies three years after separation unless exception in 5 CFR 315.201(b)(3) apply.

NAF/AAFES Interchange Agreement eligibles - Currently serving on a NAFI or AAFES position without time limitation or have been involuntarily separated from such appointment without personal cause within the preceding year. Must be or have been serving continuously for at least one year in a NAFI or AAFES position. May be appointed only to permanent positions based on this authority.

Veterans and preference eligibles under Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 - Preference eligibles or veterans who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after substantially completing three years active service may apply. If selected, applicant will be required to submit a DD214, Certificate of Discharge.

Veterans eligible as 30% Disabled Veterans - You must have prior military service with a disability rating of 30 percent or more. If selected, you will be required to submit a DD Form 214, Certificate of Discharge. When claiming 10-point preference, you must also submit your SF 15, Application for 10-point Veteran's Preference and supporting documents as outlined on the reverse side of the SF 15. You can access the SF 15 at **www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF15.pdf**.

Veterans Recruitment Appointment (VRA) eligibles - Public Law 107-288 effected substantive changes to the Veterans Readjustment Act. Under the new law the following veterans are eligible for a non-competitive VRA appointment: disabled veterans; or veterans who have been awarded a campaign badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM), or Armed Forces Service Medal (AFEM); or recently separated veterans. Recently separated veterans are defined as those who have separated from active service within the last three years. There are no time restrictions on appointment of the first two categories of veterans. There are no length of service requirements for all three categories of veterans. Veterans who are serving under the old Veterans Readjustment Appointment who do not meet new eligibility requirements for new VRA appointment may still be converted to careerconditional appointments upon completion of the current appointment. The maximum grade level at which appointments may be made is GS-11. Veterans must meet all qualification requirements. Veterans with less than fifteen years of education must receive training or education.

Employment Program for People with Disabilities eligibles - Have a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities and has been certified by the State Department of Vocational Services.

Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan eligibles - To be eligible for ICTAP consideration, you must be displaced or scheduled to be displaced, through no fault of your own, from a permanent competitive service position, and you must meet the following conditions: (1) This job vacancy must be open to applicants outside of DoD and must be in the same local commuting area as the position you occupied at the time of separation (or proposed separation);

(2) You must have a current (or last) performance rating of at least fully successful or equivalent (as applicable); (3) The grade of the vacancy must be at or below the grade level, and with no more promotion potential than the position from which you are displaced; and (4) you must be rated well-qualified for the position. Well-qualified is defined as meeting all of the minimum qualification standards and eligibility requirements as well as possessing skills that clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements for the position. Under competitive delegated examining, an ICTAP eligible will be considered well-qualified if they attain an eligibility rating of 90 or higher, not including points for veterans preference.

Family Member employees eligible under Executive Order 12721 - Worked as an Appropriated Fund Federal employee overseas while a Family Member of a uniformed service member, civilian employee, or Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) employee serving overseas. In the overseas assignment, employee must have accumulated 52 weeks of creditable service; received a fully successful or better performance rating; and must have returned to the U.S. from the overseas tour of duty and met time requirements.

Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) eligibles - Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) eligibles. (1) Reinstatement eligible-current DCIPS employee who has reinstatement eligibility as a result of personal competitive status; or (2) Personnel Interchange eligible-currently serving on a DCIPS appointment without time limitation or have been involuntarily separated from such appointment without personal cause within the preceding year. Must be or have been serving continuously for at least one year in a DCIPS position. May be appointed only to permanent positions based on this authority.

Spouses eligible for noncompetitive appointment under Executive Order 13473 are as follows:

- a spouse of a member of the armed forces serving on active duty who has orders specifying a permanent change of station (not for training),
- a spouse of a 100 percent disabled service member injured while on active duty,
- the un-remarried widow or widower of a service member who was killed while performing active duty.

Share your comments at www.twitter.com/ 3rdIDMediaTeam

Education Matters

Money available for education

The Army continues to fund the cost of colleges tuition assistance for active-duty Soldiers and Army Reservists through the *GoArmyEd* Web site. Choose from online and classroom courses from thousand of colleges. The Army still provides each Soldier \$250 per semester hour up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. New students should login to *www.GoArmyEd.com* for details and to start your *GoArmyEd* account. Then meet with an Army education counselor to discuss college programs and activate your account. E-mail counselor support is also available, by contacting *stewcounselor@conus.army.mil.*

Double check civilian education codes

Effective Saturday, Soldiers with missing or incorrect Civilian Education Level Codes may have their *GoArmyEd* account placed on hold based on Army policy that requires a Soldier's civilian education level being lower than their current *GoArmyEd* degree program. Soldiers with missing or incorrect Civilian Education Level Codes have received a detailed e-mail sent to their AKO address informing them what steps to take to correct their codes.

Soldiers should periodically review and update their Army Personnel Record information with their Personnel Administration Centers, unit administrators, or State Personnel Service Battalion to ensure their Civilian Education Code accurately reflects their current highest level civilian degree achieved (e.g. L= High School Diploma, D= Associate's Degree, K= Bachelors Degree, et cetera).

Most active-duty Soldiers can easily see why there is a discrepancy by checking their Enlisted Record Brief (or ORB for Officers). Section VII, "Civilian Education," should not be empty or have blanks, and must be accurate. For example the "Level Completed" cannot state associates degree was earned, if the college name is not included. The year the degree was awarded must be noted as well as the number of semester hours completed. The education center cannot make any changes to military records; that is why corrections must be handled through S-1 channels.

Green-to-Gold Briefings held monthly

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month at 2 p.m. Upcoming briefings are at Hunter, June 15. The ROTC representatives from Georgia Southern give the presentation at Fort Stewart and the Armstrong Atlantic State University ROTC Department conducts the briefings at Hunter each month. If interested, research this site before attending: *www.goarmy.com/rotc*.

MyCAA available for spouses

The Department of Defense has resumed the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, MyCAA, program for qualifying spouses only. The program now assists spouses of active-duty service members in the pay grades of private to sergeant, warrant officers one and two, first and second lieutenants to achieve portable careers. The approved education programs are only associate degrees, licensure, and certifications. Funding assistance will be up to \$4,000 with an annual cap of \$2,000 per fiscal year. To open an account and to see the full details of the new program, go to the secure Web site, https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa. Please allow for 14 days for approval of all financial assistance documents. If information is needed on other sources of financial assistance please contact a Military OneSource consultant at 800-342-9647.

Hope Grant for college credit offered

The Georgia HOPE Grant is available to Georgia residents, active-duty military assigned to a military installation in Georgia and their Family Members. Many HOPE eligible diploma and certificate programs are offered by technical colleges throughout Georgia, including Savannah Technical College, Airport Road, in Hinesville. Some classes are even available on-line or in the Fort Stewart Education Center. Register now for next term: June 21 to Aug. 9.

Of special interest to those who cannot use My CAA, Savannah Technical College has the Technical Communications Specialist program, which is a great option to fulfill the General Education Requirement courses for your degree. Under this particular certificate program, the Hope Grant will cover most of the cost of classes that can later be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

For more information, click on *www.gsfc.org* and *www.savannahtech.edu* or call Savannah Tech, Education Center, 912-408-2430; Hinesville, 912-408-3024; Savannah, 912-443-5700. For additional on-line classes, explore the Georgia Virtual Technical College Web site at *www.gvtc.org*.

Columbia offers spouse scholarship

Spouses of military personnel can take their first

classroom course free while they complete their financial aid paperwork and enrollment procedures with Columbia College. The active-duty member does not have to be enrolled with Columbia College. In addition, Columbia offers spouses a 20 percent tuition discount for "in-seat" (classroom) courses. Call the Fort Stewart site at 912-877-3406 or dial 912-352-8635 at Hunter.

Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The Veterans Administration Web site at *www.gibill.va.gov* provides in-depth eligibility information for all VA chapters and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning the transferability to Family Members. Also check out the new Web site, *www.ebenefits.va.gov* where you can view the status of your VA benefits and much more. If you have questions after exploring the Web site, call 888-442-4551.

Free online tutoring available

The Department of Defense now provides eligible U.S. military Families the ability to get help from a professional tutor anytime you need it — FREE. You and your children can work with a professional tutor online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying, test prep, resume writing and more. School subjects supported are all grade levels of math, science, English, and social studies. Also available are study sources for Standardized Tests to include the ASVAB, GED, college entrance exams and state standardized exams. Best of all, it is very easy to access and get started. Just go to *www.tutor.com* and click on the purple "Military" symbol. For more information, call 800-411-1970 or 212-528-3101.

Take Pearson VUE exams locally

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center is a Pearson VUE Authorized Testing Center. Community members can take advantage of on-site IT certification testing and hundreds of other professional certification and licensure exams right on Fort Stewart. Just go to *www.pearsonvue.com* to register. Upon approval to take the exam, you will receive a candidate identification number. Then schedule the exam date by contacting Blondell Francis, room 165 or call 912-767-9569.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Insurance season closes this month

From now through June 24, the Civilian workforce will have Open Season for Federal Long Term Care Insurance. In October 2009 the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program introduced a new plan, FLTCIP 2.0, with enhanced features for current FLTCIP enrollees. Now that all current enrollees are "settled," it's time to move forward with the second phase of the FLTCIP 2.0 rollout.

During the open season, actively at work employees and their spouses (including same sex domestic partners of the Civilian workforce members) who are not currently enrolled, will be able to apply to the FLTCIP with abbreviated underwriting. Nonenrolled annuitants and other qualified relatives can apply for coverage with a full underwriting application during this period, as well as anytime during the year. For frequently asked questions on the Open Season, please visit www.ltcfeds.com/help/faq/faq. html.

Contribute to Japan relief funds

The Office of Personnel Management Office of Combined Federal Campaign is authorizing a special opportunity to help those in need in Japan. Federal employees at the workplace can help to facilitate relief and reconstruction assistance in Japan through this special solicitation. A one-time cash or check donation outside the normal Combined Federal Campaign procedures will be allowed. If anyone would like to contribute, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided a list of relief organizations and related information on its web site at *www.usaid.gov*. All special solicitation activities must conclude by July 31, 2011.

3rd ID Reunion scheduled

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and attached units in wars and in peacetime will hold their 92nd annual reunion Sept. 8-11. The reunion will be held at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, French Quarter, 739 Canal Street at Bourbon, New Orleans, La. 70130. The toll free number is 888-696-4806. Room rates are \$99 per night plus tax.

The Society of the Third Infantry Division is seeking those who served in the 3rd ID and attached units in wars, peacetime, or special interest to join the Society. Contact Henry Burke at 803-782-7517 or e-mail *pennieburke@sc.rr.com*. For additional reunion information e-mail *Info@TheReunionBrat*.

Tag office announces hours

The Liberty County Tag Office that is located in building 226, on Fort Stewart will be operational from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and closed on Federal holidays. For more information, call Arthur L. Weston, 912-767-1883.

Installation has lost, found program

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have a lost and found program. If you want to report or check on a lost item, visit building 280, 354 East Bultman Avenue on Fort Stewart and check with Detective Hooks, 912-767-9596/9026. The Hunter Army Airfield point of contact is Detective Battista, at building 1240, 197 South Lightning Road at 912-315-5374/2940. Do not hesitate to call the Stewart-Hunter point of contacts for more information.

Get your message out quickly

Use the Marne Message system to get information out to the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community of employees. From your computer, send your message to *stewmsgrequest@conus.army.mil*. Your information should populate the system within hours, if not sooner. Attachments cannot be included in MARNE Messages. Only command directed messages are included in MARNE messages.

Winn DFAC opens later for public

The Winn Army Community Dining Facility is open to only Winn staff (with Winn ID badge) and Families of current inpatients from 11 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday. All non-badge holders are welcome to enjoy our dining facility after noon.

Access Garrison Brown Bags

The Garrison Brown Bag program is designed to allow Garrison Senior leadership to receive direct feedback from the workforce in an informal luncheon environment. The Garrison Commander and Deputy Garrison Commander conduct bi-monthly Brown Bag sessions designed to answer questions and concerns on the spot, and take notes on concerns that require additional follow up information.

These concerns are researched and answered by the appropriate directorate and posted on a blog. Access to this blog is on the Fort Stewart Homepage, www.stewart.army.mil. Once on the site, click the button labeled "Fort Stewart Brown Bag Answers" to access the blog. In addition to current Brown Bag topics, the archived Brown Bag answers can also be accessed from a link on the blog site.

Recreation areas closed

Fort Stewart recreation areas flanking the Ogeechee River (In Training Areas B-23, B-24, C-16, C-17, and C-18) are closed until further notice due to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, DNR Wildlife Division and U.S. EPA responding to a fish kill occurring on an approximate 35-40 mile segment of the Ogeechee River in Screven and Bulloch Counties, with possible effects in Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties. Citizens are advised to avoid swimming or consuming fish taken from the Ogeechee River in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Screven Counties. For more information please contact the Fort Stewart Fish and Wildlife Office at 912-767-2584.

"iWatch - Report suspicious activity

The iWatch Program encourages community members to keep security in mind throughout your day. Our continued safety is enhanced by the number of Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilian personnel who are aware of what type of suspicious behavior should be reported and then doing so. If you want a presentation on the iWATCH Program your group or organization contact Mr. Gordon Bartholf at 912-767-0999 or by e-mail at Gordon.H.Bartholf@conus.army.mil or Mr. Tony Mabrey at 912-315-5350 or by e-mail at *Anthony*. *Mabrey@conus.army.mil*. If you see suspicious behavior which you believe is threatening, call the iWATCH reporting number at 912-767-2822/4895 at Fort Stewart and 912-315-6133 at Hunter Army Airfield.

STEWART-

Sign up for Fire Warden class

Fort Stewart will be conducting their monthly Fire Warden class in building 1850 located on 15th Street, June 9, at 9 a.m. Seating is limited so please call 912-767-7006 to reserve a seat. Appointment letters are required prior to class.

Help reduce energy costs

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will experience higher than normal electrical costs during the hours of 3 to 9 p.m. over the next couple of days. In an effort to reduce utility costs, your support is needed with the following energy conservation efforts: shut off any unnecessary lights; increase the HVAC temperature by 1 to 3 degrees; shut off unused electrical equipment such as TV, monitors and printers. Ensure all doors and windows are shut; shut windows blinds or curtains to reduce heat from the sun.

Recruiting special agents

The U.S. Army's CI Special Agent recruiting team will be conducting information briefings at the Fort Stewart Education Center, room 243, June 16 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. This presentation will provide information concerning career field MOS 35L, CI Special Agent, to include criteria for entry into the MOS and how to apply for reclassification, as well as the missions, assignments and training opportunities CI Special Agents have. Questions or comments concerning this visit should be directed to Mr. Long at 520-533-2320, DSN 821-2320, or e-mail *randall.long@conus.army.mil.*

HUNTER-

Register for VBS

Hunter Army Airfield Chapel Vacation Bible School begins June 20-24 at the Hunter Chapel, 9 a.m.-noon. VBS is open to chapel/DOD/military children from kindergarten/4-years-old to 6th grade. The theme of this year's VBS is "Big Apple Adventure - Where Faith and Life Connect." Please register early because slots are limited. Register with Mr. Archer at the Hunter Chapel and Religious Education Center from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday or call 912-315-5934 to make an appointment.

VBS Volunteers needed at Hunter

Volunteers are also needed to teach classes and assist with setup/cleanup. A background check must be made before anyone can assist. Please see Mr. Archer so he can start the process. There will be several teacher classes given before Vacation Bible School to pass out materials and answer all questions that teachers or assistants may have. Teens may volunteer as assistants with their parental permission. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please visit or call Mr. Archer at 912-315-5934.

Hunter has official photo service

The Department of the Army Photo and Command Photo support is open by appointment only at building 1209 at Hunter Army Airfield. The service is open 9-11 a.m., and 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Wednesday. Please go to *www.vios.army.mil* to schedule your DA/command photo at the Hunter studio. For more information, call 912-767-2656/4905.

LEGAL NOTICE-

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt.**Micki Nixon, D Co, 3/7 IN BN, 4th IBCT, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 2nd Lt. Steven Krysevig, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, 912-767-0301.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Bryan Brubeck,** E Co, 3 Combat Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314,
please contact 1st Lt. Ruben Chirinos, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, 318-554-8321.

Around the Department of Defense



Gold Stars: Army's commitment to Families of the Fallen

Shayna E. Brouker

Installation Management Command

Donna Engeman started wearing the Gold Star lapel pin after her husband, Chief Warrant Officer John Engeman, was killed southeast of Baghdad on May 14, 2006. She wanted to honor and remember the man she admired as "superman."

But she soon realized the significance of the star was lost on others.

Not long after his death, she tried to order a Gold Star license plate at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The clerk unknowingly asked if Engeman was the service member. When she replied no, she was not, the clerk told Engeman her husband needed to be with her.

Awkward too, when people say, "I love that pin, it goes so well with your outfit." Or when they ask, "Where do you get one?"

"It's funny and ironic," Engeman said. "You want people to know about their sacrifice, but you don't want to stand there and grab someone by the collar and yell, 'He's dead!' So you just walk away, shake your head and eat some chocolate. That's when I get mad at him all over again and say, 'You left me with this.'"

It's a feeling many Gold Star Survivors know, and unfortunately, her experience is not an isolated one. She's seen that, despite being at war for nearly a decade, even many military personnel still don't know what a Gold Star signifies.

"It's disheartening to be so far into this war, yet when I drive around with a bumper sticker and pin and people just don't know," she said.

Engeman uses her experience in her work as a survivor advocate and special projects coordinator for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command's Survivor Outreach Services. As a Gold Star Wife and advocate, she believes that more needs to be done to increase awareness.

According to Engeman, the Army is working hard to ensure Survivors don't feel quite so alone. As part of this initiatives, FMWRC established SOS in October 2008. Its mission is to build a unified support program that embraces and reassures Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family for as long as they desire. The comprehensive program is designed to meet the needs of Survivors with a wide-range of support, services and programs.

Congress made strides last year to honor Survivors by designating Dec. 18 as Gold Star Wives Day. Gold

Star Mother's Day, held on the last Sunday in September, has recognized the sorrow and sacrifice of mothers of fallen sons and daughters every year since 1936.

In 1967, an Act of Congress standardized the service banners and established the Gold Star lapel pins to issue to immediate Family Members of service members killed in combat, including those who have committed suicide in theater. The Next of Kin pin signifies a service-related death or suicide during active duty other than combat.



Courtesy Photo

In 1967, an Act of Congress established the Gold Star lapel pin (left) for issue to immediate Family Members of service members killed in combat. The Next of Kin pin (right) signifies a service-related death.

A senior general officer, representing the Army itself, usually presents the pin and colors to the spouse or next of kin during the funeral. Casualty assistance officers coordinate this solemn rite.

"Not everyone is congenial about receiving the pin or flag, and it's presumptuous to assume so," said Edward Maney, Casualty Assistance Center chief at Fort Sam Houston. "But it's our way of extending our heart to them."

As senior Army chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery from 1996 to 2000, Maney has become familiar with the delicate process of grieving and healing. He believes the Gold Star program needs to be better integrated into the "fabric of the military and society" across the board.

Charlene Westbrook, a Gold Star Wife, agrees that

more needs to be done to increase awareness. $\,$

Like Engeman, she has had her share of uncomfortable experiences. She became familiar with Gold Star pins long before her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook, died on Oct. 7, 2009, from injuries sustained in an ambush in Iraq.

His brother and her sister's husband were both killed in Iraq in 2005, so she knew that those who wear the tiny gold star bear a loss heavier than any medal can convey. Still, she hoped at least members of the military

and those who work with them would understand

So she was surprised when during a trip to her local installation to register her three sons, ages 21, 19 and 16 for an Army-sponsored event, some Army employees didn't understand the significance of the Gold Star. It had been just a month after her husband died, she explained to the employee, and they weren't feeling so good.

"I told them, 'We're a Gold Star Family, and we're kind of fragile right now,'" she said. "They were like, 'What's that?' with no compassion."

Emotions flared, the manager was summoned and apologized after Westbrook submitted a customer complaint. But the sting of the slight lingered.

"It almost feels disrespectful," she said. "I just wish there was some kind of training or acknowledgment for military and civilian personnel who work on installations to be more aware of what the Gold Star means and to have that compassion. I didn't want them to treat us like eggs, but just to know that we're in this state."

It's a familiar story Gold Star Survivors tell in groups like the Gold Star Wives, Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Dads, which came together for support and healing. They also work to promote the ideals of the military and to support veterans, service members and each other. The Gold Star Mothers, started in 1929, and the Gold Star Wives, formed in 1945, are both chartered by Congress.

"There's an unspoken bond among Survivors - it doesn't matter whether he or she is a widow, parent or child. People I don't even know walk up to me and put their arm around me, and that's very comforting," Engeman said. "When you see the star and the banner, you just know." But for those who don't know, she urged, try to understand. "Don't be afraid to thank Survivors for their sacrifice," she said. "Remember what the star means."



Photo by D. Myles Cullen, U.S. Army

General George W. Casey Jr., then Army chief of staff, administers the oath of enlistment to 26 recruits in New York City April 1, 2009.

New ad for 'Army Strong' campaign

U.S. Army Accessions Command

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Army is introducing its latest extension of "Army Strong" through its newest advertising campaign, "Symbol of Strength."

The campaign began to roll out on television May 30, Memorial Day. It consists of three new national broadcast television spots and will integrate a strong cinema activation, public relations, social media and an interactive web presence.

"Our new 'Symbol of Strength' campaign highlights the ultimate benefit of becoming a Soldier - the unique and incomparable strength inherent in every one of us serving," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commanding general of U.S. Army Accessions Command. "When you put on the Army uniform, you learn how to strengthen your own life, whether it's through a strong education, participating in new opportunities that are only accessible to those serving in the Army, or leading missions that will make a difference

to you or to others."

"This new advertising campaign provides a way for the Army to speak directly to our target audience," said Bruce Jasurda, chief marketing officer for U.S. Army Accessions Command. "We are taking steps to connect our potential recruits with current Soldiers, whether it's through Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube or armystrongstories.com, where Soldiers are invited to blog about their day-to-day

life in the Army."

The three television spots each feature a different aspect of serving as a Soldier - education, leadership and opportunities - and encourage young adults to go online to discover more about the strength gained by wearing the uniform.

"Education" demonstrates the depth and breadth of education and learning opportunities as part of a global classroom that is the Army.

"Opportunity" illustrates the excitement of the many unexpected opportunities Soldiers have access to in the Army.

"Leadership" showcases Soldiers as leaders enhancing not just their own lives but the lives of others.

The television spots will drive viewers to *www.goarmy.com* where they can connect with Soldiers and create personal connections with those already serving.

McCann Worldgroup, the Army's marketing agency of record, produced the fully integrated advertising campaign.

The U.S. Army Accessions Command, which is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, meets the human resource needs of the Army by transforming volunteers into officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers.

In providing the force, the 18,391 men and women of Accessions Command prepare these future Soldiers and leaders for their initial military training. Commanded by Lt. Gen. Freakley, the command is located at Fort Knox, Ky.

Lt Gen Brooks assumes command of Third Army

Third Army/U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

FORT McPHERSON, Ga.– More than 500 people were in attendance June 3 as Lt. Gen. William G. Webster relinquished command of Third Army to Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks in a change of command ceremony at Hedekin Field.

Army Chief of Staff General Martin E.Dempsey presided over the ceremony.

"The international security environment is constantly changing," said Gen. Dempsey. "The coming decade will bring with it a host of challenges and opportunities, most of which are not yet visible to us, most of which will likely emanate from the critical part of the world that happens to be Third Army's neighborhood."

"There's absolutely no one more qualified to lead Patton's Own into the future than Vince Brooks," Gen. Dempsey said.

Lieutenant General Brooks, who served as Commander, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo 2000-2002, will be the first Third Army commander to command from the new Patton Hall headquarters building at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

"Today's ceremony has an extra measure of historic significance," Lt. Gen. Brooks said. "Third Army bids farewell to Atlanta, closing a long chapter of service here. I am honored to return to this distinguished unit where I served earlier in my career and to have the privilege of commanding it as the next chapter of history begins."

As commander of the 1st Infantry Division based out of Fort Riley, Kan. Lt. Gen. Brooks recently returned from serving in Iraq as the Commanding General of the U.S. Division-South. Throughout his 30 years of military service, Lt. Gen. Brooks has also served as Chief of Army

Public Affairs, acting commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division and deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood.

Lieutenant Genral Brooks congratulated Webster on his years of service and expressed his thanks to everyone for being a part of today's ceremony. Lieutenant Genral Brooks said he is excited to rejoin Third Army, where he first served as a colonel.

Third Army serves as the Army's longest continuously deployed war fighting headquarters, currently operating from five distinct locations to include its Main Command Post, Forward Command Post in Kuwait, ARCENT Support Element-Iraq, ARCENT Coordination Support Element- Afghanistan, and transitioning to its new Main Command Post at Shaw AFB.

Third Army participates in military to military engagements with partner nations during Theater Security Cooperation events. The TSC program focuses on enhancing partner capacity, fostering regional cooperation and ensuring contingency access for full spectrum operations within Third Army's 20-country area of Responsibility.

Third Army has participated in TSC events in Central and South Asia, and the Middle East and has more than 100 TSC events scheduled this year.

During the ceremony Lt. Gen. Webster was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and concluded his 37 year career.

Third Army will conduct an uncasing ceremony Friday at the new Patton Hall located at Shaw. Lieutenant General Brooks will perform the ceremony representing the presence of the command and symbolizing the start of operations in a new location.



Courtesy Photo

Lieutenant General Vincent K. Brooks, right, receives the Third Army colors from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey during a change of command ceremony held on Hedekin Field June 3. "Today's ceremony has an extra measure of historic significance," Lt. Gen. Brooks said. "Third Army bids farewell to Atlanta, closing a long chapter of service here." The command is moving into its new headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Congratulations to 3rd ID NCO, Soldier of the Quarter

The Commanding General and the Division Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Infantry Division would like to congratulate the winners of the 3rd Infantry Division Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter Board for the 1st Quarter, FY12.

Sergeant Andrew Song, who is assigned to Troop A, 3/1 CAV, 3 HBCT, was selected as the NCO of the Quarter and Spc. Falak Shafi, also assigned to Troop A, 3/1 CAV, 3 HBCT, was selected as the Soldier of the Quarter. If you see these outstanding Soldiers, congratulate them on a job well done!



Spc. Falak Shafi



Sgt. Andrew Song



Colt 'Glory Guns' champion Raider Stakes event

Spc. Jared S. Eastman 1HBCT Public Affairs

One platoon from each battalion in 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team competed in events last week to determine who was the best in the brigade. The best platoon competition, entitled Raider Stakes, incorporated events that are part of a Soldiers basic warrior tasks and skills. Although all the platoons were close, Colt Platoon, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, took the title of the best.

"Each battalion represented themselves very well," said Col. James Crider, 1st HBCT commander, during the award ceremony on Cottrell Field, June 2. The entire brigade formed up to watch the best platoon receive its award.

"I couldn't be more proud or fortunate to serve along side all the great warriors that are out here in front of me," Col. Crider said to the Soldiers of 1HBCT.

The Colt platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Darrel Mealy, said he couldn't be more satisfied with the performance of his Soldiers.

"I was fortunate enough to have a great group of Soldiers," he said. "A lieutenant who's really on the ball and Soldiers who go out and execute every day. I'm very proud of them, they exceeded my expectations and really brought their A-game."

However, knowledge doesn't cement a win according to Staff Sgt. Mealy.

"I think it has a lot to do with how much a Soldier

wants it," he said, "And I think my guys just wanted it more than the other platoons."

Although the event had mostly basic warrior tasks and drills it also included a mystery event- an uparmored humvee push.

"The most difficult event physically had to have been the HMMWV push," said Staff Sgt. Mealy. "It was a challenge for all of us. Other than that, all the stations were pretty even across the board."

The Colt platoon leader, 1st Lt. Seth Barrow, also made sure his Soldiers were prepared for the events.

"The guys' brains are like a sponge, they soak up knowledge," said 1st Lt. Barrow. "For the past month they learned their individual tasks all over again. The competition was fun, challenging and tough. I couldn't be happier with each and every one of my Soldiers; they had their backs against the wall and came out fighting."

But teamwork was also just as important.

"The ruck march was hard," he said, "We had a Soldier go down pretty early, he didn't fall out but we had to carry his equipment so we could all finish as a team."

But for 1st Lt. Barrow, every platoon that participated in the competition is one of the best.

"Great job guys," he said. "We were all picked because our chain of command thought we were the best, and everyone showed that they were the best of the best out there. Just because we won doesn't mean everyone else lost, we just ended up on top."



Photo by Spc. Jared S. Eastman

First Heavy Brigade Combat Team commander and command sergeant major, Col. James Crider and Command Sgt. Maj. Oscar Arroyo, tie the "Raider Stakes Best Platoon" ribbon to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment guidon on Cottrell Field, June 2.

Spartan mechanics test their skills during "round robin" exercise

Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal 2HBCT Public Affairs

Whether deployed or state side, vehicles are an important part of U.S. Army operations. They are used to transport almost everything Soldiers need or use to complete the smallest missions to the largest missions.

Spartan Soldiers of Company B, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division tested their mechanic skills June 1-2, during a "round robin" exercise held at 26th BSB motor pool.

The mechanics kicked off the exercise with a standardized test, questioning the Soldiers over their crafts and skills as mechanics and their knowledge on the military vehicles they are responsible for fixing.

After the test, the mechanics went from station to station repairing and analyzing various broken vehi-

cles, identifying different parts on vehicles, and identifying the uses of different tools used to repair vehicles.

According to Spc. Daniel Hinson, Company B, 26th BSB, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID and a station instructor, the event definitely served as a learning experience for himself as well as the other Soldiers.

"The Soldiers are clearing my station, which is part identification and purpose, by 75-80 percent," said the specialist. "I purposely had them try to identify parts I know we don't usually work on or parts that are totally unfamiliar so that we could all learn something new about these vehicles."

Because the unit's vehicles have been in reset due to their last deployment, a lot of the Soldiers, according to Staff Sgt. Jonathan Orebaugh, have not been exposed to different types of mechanical problems and this event was the perfect time to give the Soldiers much needed training.

"Over these past two days, we have gotten a good idea where our mechanics are as a whole, how well they do their job and how much they know about the vehicles," he said. "Some of these Soldiers have been here in the unit or either in the Army for a while so they are good, but there are some fairly new Soldiers here. They all got some good training out of this exercise."

Captain Jonathan Fredritz, Company B, 26th BSB, 2nd HBCT Commander, said even though the event made the Soldiers better mechanics, it also added a little competition and will to learn to the Soldiers.

"Because the Soldiers earned points for the written part of the event and for doing well at each station, this event definitely raised the competitive spirit of the corps. While we tested their mechanical ability, we also got a chance to break up the monotony of the work day while making them better at what they do," said the commander.

VALOR — from Page 1A

Specialist Glen Ballough, a Lake Mary, Fla., native, who was the gunner in the second truck, helped Sacco engage the enemy and defeated the insurgent who almost claimed their

"At that point in time the training just takes over," Sgt. Sacco said, who explained that his atten tion to detail was learned behavior from experience and from sharpening infantry skills at his home station, Fort Stewart. Both Sgt. Sacco and Spc. Ballough were assigned to the 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. and deployed together in 2007-2008.

"We took a lot of contact, but never from an RKG-3," said Sgt. Sacco who also explained that during Operation New Dawn the threat of violence is now much lower.

"But you can't take anything lightly," said Spc. Ballough, "You have to be ready, at all times. The enemy wants you to think that there is (no longer a threat), but there still is."

The two advised other Soldiers to stay alert while travelling in Iraq.

"You never know when that opportunity will come," said Sgt. Sacco.

Two Combat Infantryman Badges were awarded to Pfc. Alex Wenrick and Cpl. Justin Stanley, and nine Soldiers received the Combat Action Badge for their actions during the same incident.

Civilian team deploys to aid troops, provide support

Tracy Robillard

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

After months of extensive training throughout the country and around the world, a team of eight with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, deployed to Iraq, June 4, to provide specialized engineering support to U.S. troops and assist with construction projects.

The 542nd Engineer Detachment, known as a Forward Engineer Support Team – Advanced, or FEST-A, is a mobile, rapid-response team that deploys with Army ground units to solve technical engineering problems. One of the team's critical missions during their yearlong deployment is to assist with the transition as the U.S. military leaves Iraq and turns over continuing operations to the State Department.

"This highly-focused team represents the finest Civilian and military expertise in the Savannah district and within the Coastal Empire's engineering community," said Col. Jeff Hall, Savannah District commander. "The team will be instrumental in helping the Department of Defense prepare to draw down and leave a self-governing, independent nation as the State Department continues to strengthen the U.S.-Iraq relationship. The team will also assist our U.S. Soldiers by deploying with ground troops to provide engineering solutions to the Army's 'boots on the ground.'"

While deployed to southern Iraq, the team will provide engineering, contracting and quality-assurance support to construct the largest consulate in the world, which will house 1,600 employees. The team will focus on expansion of the base camp, as well as advise and assist the private contractor working on the site.

The Savannah District detachment is one of eight FEST-A teams in the country. Other FEST-A projects include water and waste water treatment plants, hospital renovations, provincial building renovations, court house construction, school construction, roads, culverts, bridge classification, electrical evaluations and distribution projects.

Stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, the team consists of an officer-in-charge, a noncommissioned officer and six Civilians who specialize in mechanical, civil, electrical and environmental engineering, cartography (map making) and contracting.

While several of the team members have previous combat experience, this is the first time the group has deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations since it was officially activated at Hunter, Feb. 9, 2010.

In March, the 542nd Engineer Detachment was rated as one of the highest-performing teams to train at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., where they provided expert advice and tech-



Photo by Tracy Robillard

The 542nd Engineer Detachment, stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, deployed to southern Iraq, June 4, to provide specialized engineering support to U.S. troops and assist with construction projects. Team members Sgt. 1st Class Jason Stover, detachment NCOIC; Alonzo Lyford, Civilian team leader and mechanical engineer; Terry McFarland, contracting specialist; Ivelisse Alvarez, electrical engineer; Joel Fuchs, cartographer; Bruce Myhre, environmental engineer; Jeremy Miller, civil engineer; and Maj. Jared Runge, commander.

nical skill to a brigade combat team during simulated, full-spectrum operations.

"The training exercise was an extremely successful event for the team in preparation for our deployment to Iraq," said Maj. Jared Runge, 542nd Engineer Detachment commander. "We applied our technical knowledge to work with Soldiers from other units to ensure we were integrated into the mission – whether it was developing a scope-of-work for a contract, designing a waste water treatment plant or engineering a solar-panel street light system."

The team also deployed to Korea in December to map and design a 5,000-man base camp that could be used in contingency operations for the 7th Air Force – an opportunity that broadened the team's international portfolio and provided real-world experience with emergency operations planning.

"This team has undergone some of the most rig-

orous, extensive deployment training in the Corps and has demonstrated great success," Col. Hall said. "The strength of the Corps of Engineers is its Civilian workforce. With FEST-A, we integrate the engineering expertise of our Civilians with the operational knowledge of the Army's ground force to



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